Delay in banning obscene broadcasts and publications

†2580. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been receiving the requests since last one decade regarding imposing ban on broadcasting and publication of such scenes and articles in the media of the country *i.e.* in the information and broadcasting mediums, which are obscene and pollute the civilization and culture of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had also officially given an assurance regarding imposing ban on them; and

(d) if so, the reasons for Government taking more than one decade to execute this assurance?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Complaints on increased obscenity, violence etc. in the media have been brought to the notice of the Government from time to time. Content of programmes in the Electronic Media is regulated by the Programme & Advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules made thereunder. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violation of Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Act and Rules framed thereunder. The Committee either *suo-moto* or on receipt of complaints, examines cases of violation of codes. Show cause Notices are issued to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programme/ advertisements. Oders have also been issued for constitution of Monitoring Committees at the State and District levels to monitor private satellite TV Channels and local cable channels to detect and look into violations of the Codes and complaints received from general public as well.

The Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body, has issued 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which cover principles and ethics with regard to Print Media. Complaints on obscene publication as and when received are referred to the PCI. The PCI examines the complaints and takes action as required.

(c) and (d) Officially, there is no such assurance pending in the Ministry. In reply to some of the Parliament Questions it was mentioned that a committee has been constituted for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes to provide greater specificity in the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 05.03.2008 which is available on the website of the Ministry www.mib.nic. in under the heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008."

Examining the TRP systems

2581. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi .

(a) whether Government is going to examine the Television Rating Points (TRP) system to rate the system of popularity of channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the reliability of the present system;

(d) whether Government have asked the TRAI to give its suggestions;

(e) whether Government will call the meeting of different stakeholders on the issue before finalizing new TRP system; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) In order to examine the issue, the Government has solicited recommendations of TRAI for formulation of policy guidelines for Television Audience Measurement (TAM)/Television Rating Points (TRP) so as to bring greater transparency into it.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no such proposal.

Code of conduct for print and electronic media

2582. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to bring a code of conduct for print and electronic media and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether media is resorting to unethical practices in the name of freedom of media; and

(c) the present position with regard to bringing out such a policy in the name of streamlining media in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) As far as print media is concerned, the Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has laid down Norms for Journalistic Conduct under Article 13(2)(b) of the Press Council Act 1987. The cases of violations of these norms are looked into by the Press Council and action is taken against the publication/journalist by the Council in terms of provisions of the PCI Act. 1978.

For electronic media, the Code of Conduct for Electronic media already exists in the form of Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Further, with a view to provide greater specificity to the existing provisions, a Committee was constituted by the Government for reviewing the above codes. The Committee has submitted its report (Self Regulation Guidelines for Boadcasting Sector) to the Government on 05.03.2008.

Documentary on Ramsetu

†2583. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi .